



# Peralta Community College District

333 East Eighth Street • Oakland, CA 94606 • (510) 466-7202

## *Office of the Chancellor*

July 15, 2015

Mr. Ken Topping, Chair  
County of San Luis Obispo  
Planning Commission  
976 Osos Street, Room 300  
San Luis Obispo, California 93408



RE: Phillips 66 Rail Spur Expansion Project

Dear Chairperson Topping and Members of the Planning Commission,

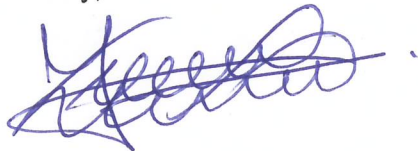
The Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees is writing to state our opposition to the Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility expansion in San Luis Obispo County. The Peralta District is particularly concerned with the increase in oil-train traffic generated by this project through many densely populated areas and the risk it poses to schools and colleges along the rail route.

The most significant impact identified in the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) is accidents on the main rail line that could result in oil spills, fires, and explosions near populated areas. Our current rail system is designed to connect residents to their destinations throughout the state, not to move large quantities of hazardous materials like crude oil. Additionally, Laney College and the Peralta District Office in Oakland are within the one-mile US Department of Transportation Potential Impact Zone in the case of an oil train derailment or fire.

The RDEIR also does not evaluate the relative air quality or greenhouse gas emissions for the entire project area, which includes oil transport through northern California to the San Luis Obispo County facility. The diesel emissions from operational activities of trains along the route would generate toxic pollutant emissions that exceed thresholds, increasing the risk of cancer, heart disease, and respiratory disease, especially in the very young. Therefore, this project would directly compromise the health and safety of our school communities along the rail route.

On June 9, 2015, the Peralta Community College District Board voted to oppose the Phillips 66 Rail Spur Expansion Project and to respectfully request that the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission vote to deny the project.

Sincerely,



Jowel C. Laguerre, Ph.D.  
Chancellor, Peralta Community College District

**Peralta Community College District  
Board of Trustees  
Resolution # 14/15-49  
Regarding Santa Maria Phillips 66 Rail Refinery**

**WHEREAS**, the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors is currently considering the Santa Maria Phillips 66 Rail Refinery Project which would ship vast quantities of highly toxic tar sands petroleum on mile-long trains through rail lines in or near the cities of Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont, and Alameda; and

**WHEREAS**, community college district governing boards have the obligation to provide a safe and healthful learning environment for all students; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed train route lies within view of both Laney College and the Peralta District Offices; and

**WHEREAS**, as Trustees of facilities located along the proposed rail route, we would be directly impacted by these oil trains; and

**WHEREAS**, school employees are state-mandated disaster workers while on the job, and may not be equipped to deal with the dangers posed by this project or to adequately protect the lives and the well-being of our students and employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the project's draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) leaves unanswered many serious questions about this project and has raised serious concerns not just within the environmental community but also among knowledgeable people within the public health and public safety communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the toxic air emissions that will accompany this project pose serious adverse risks to public health through what Phillips itself acknowledges are "significant and unavoidable" levels of air pollution along the rail route, with sulfur dioxide and other toxic chemicals that increase risk of cancer, heart disease, respiratory disease and premature death; and

**WHEREAS**, there is already a high incidence of childhood asthma and allergies in Oakland and Alameda (asthma hospitalization rate in Alameda County has twice the state average and is the third-highest in California); and

**WHEREAS**, resolutions opposing the Phillips Rail Refinery project have been adopted by other local elected bodies including the City Councils of Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond, San Leandro and San Jose, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, and the School Boards of Oakland, San Leandro, Hayward, Fremont and San Lorenzo;

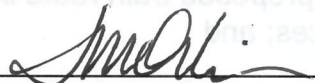
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees strongly opposes this project and urges the San Luis Obispo



County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to reject the Phillips 66 oil train project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chancellor of the Peralta Community College District send a copy of this resolution and an accompanying letter to San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors communicating our respectful but firm resolve to oppose the Phillips 66 Oil Tar Sands Rail Refinery Project.

**APPROVED, PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees, Oakland, California on June 9, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
José M. Ortiz, Chancellor  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



**Peralta Community College District  
Board of Trustees  
Resolution # 14/15-54  
Supporting the National Day of Action for Medicare's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**WHEREAS**, July 30, 2015 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Medicare Act;

**WHEREAS**, Medicare is our nation's largest and most successful health insurance system serving the healthcare needs of almost 50 million older and disabled Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicare has been the most financially efficient healthcare system in the United States with administrative costs averaging only 2 percent of program outlays; and

**WHEREAS**, the availability of Medicare has helped address the increased retiree healthcare costs for Unions and State and Local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, healthcare is a human right, and all Americans deserve affordable, comprehensive healthcare;

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Peralta Community College District supports the "Medicare Turns 50" national campaign to celebrate the success of the Medicare program

**APPROVED, PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees, Oakland, California on June 23, 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "José M. Ortiz", is written over a horizontal line.

José M. Ortiz, Chancellor  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



**Peralta Community College District**

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